

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated to serve the public interest. It is contrary to the public interest to air programs completely one-sided in their views without giving "equal time" to opposing viewpoints, when the content of the message is political. We all must cherish our rights of free speech, but also preserve integrity of our political processes. This incident underlines how easily our media can be converted to propaganda machinery, a problem only made worse by media consolidation.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.